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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS

Geneva, 25 - 28 March 2002

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Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

(Agenda item 2)

1. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

"Informal Chairperson's paper dated 22 March 2002".

Informal meetings

2. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

3. At the closing plenary, on 28 March 2002, the representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that, in spite of the flexibility and dedication shown by all, it had not been possible to reach consensus on the issue of the intergovernmental machinery, and a number of key issues remained to be resolved. The annex to the latest informal text dealt with the financing of experts and contained a number of elements necessary for a solution to the issue. The latest informal text would be distributed and serve as a basis for further consultations in April.

Action by the Board

4. At its closing plenary meeting, on 28 March, the Board decided to hold informal consultations during the period 8-16 April with the aim of completing the work on the intergovernmental machinery before the meeting in Bangkok. In view of the unavailability of Ambassador Cuello (Dominican Republic) during the period in question, the Board requested Ambassador Ali (Bangladesh) to chair the informal consultations.

Closing statements

5. The representative of **Peru**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that, notwithstanding the great efforts made by all delegations during the present review, the lack of progress on several substantive issues contained in the text on the intergovernmental machinery was frustrating. It was the understanding of his Group that negotiations must be finished before the Bangkok meeting and that the text was a package and a "single undertaking", so that nothing was approved until everything had been approved. In the annex to the latest version of the text, the reference to "bearing in mind particularly the needs of LDCs" should be between square brackets because it was a new addition that had not even been discussed during the informal meetings and might compromise the need to ensure balanced participation of all developing countries at UNCTAD meetings. With regard

to the main text, the question of lack of financing for the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action should be dealt with and included as a separate point. With regard to the regular sessions of the Board, there should be a standing agenda item providing for an analysis of the new challenges faced by developing countries, including *inter alia* the follow-up to the Doha Meeting.

6. The representative of **Egypt**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, expressed concern about the progress being made on the intergovernmental machinery. His Group was keen to pursue work on the basis of what had been achieved so far.

7. The representative of **Sri Lanka**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group and China**, said that the text on the intergovernmental machinery was a package and must therefore be accepted in its entirety, not in a piecemeal fashion.

8. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that the annex to the text on the intergovernmental machinery, dealing with the financing of experts, represented an important achievement.

9. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **LDCs**, welcomed the fact that it had been possible to resolve the issue concerning the treatment of LDC issues in the Board.

Chapter II

STOCKTAKING IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME AGREED TO IN THE BANGKOK PLAN OF ACTION

(Agenda item 3)

10. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

> "Programme assessment for 2000-2001: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1);
>
> "Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action: Second preliminary and incomplete working draft – 12 March 2002".

Informal meetings

11. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

12. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that discussions on the stocktaking pillar had been completed. However, the process as a whole had not yet been completed, and a final draft would be circulated for comments, which should be made by 4 April.

13. The representative of **Peru**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that the outcome of the stocktaking pillar would be "noted" by the Board and not "adopted", and that should be made clear in the agenda and programme. With regard to the latest working draft, his Group had difficulties with paragraphs 20 and 34 on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, and it would like the views it had expressed during the discussions to be duly reflected.

14. The representative of **Sri Lanka**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group and China**, expressed appreciation for the transparency of the stocktaking exercise and the balance achieved in the resulting text.

15. The representative of **Uruguay** said that the stocktaking text did not reflect the views of his and other delegations on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. His delegation would be providing comments and suggestions in that connection. The paper on stocktaking should indicate that it was a Chairperson's paper.

16. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that the stocktaking document was balanced, and that balance should be maintained in the final version.

17. The representative of **Spain**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that the EU would be submitting comments on the text so that the final outcome would get even greater support.

Chapter III

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE SINCE UNCTAD X

(Agenda item 4)

18. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the interactive debates and policy dialogue, said that an unedited issues paper prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat to provide the catalyst for the round tables in Bangkok would be circulated immediately, and there would be a brainstorming based on it on 5 April. In Bangkok, the round tables would be attended by a number of ministers, but all delegations would be invited to participate.

19. There followed a presentation by Thailand, as the host country, on Bangkok and Thailand.

Chapter IV

CLOSING STATEMENT

20. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the Mid-term Review was extremely important for the secretariat because of the guidance it provided. The document that had emerged from the stocktaking pillar represented an excellent statement of progress achieved and future areas of emphasis, and he was in no way discouraged by the fact that agreement had not yet been reached on the pillar on the intergovernmental machinery.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

21. The third meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 25 March 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, by Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh), Vice-President of the Board.

B. Officers

22. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President:	Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh) Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America) Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan) Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia) Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

23. At the opening meeting, the agenda was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery
3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action
4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report

D. Adoption of the report

24. At the closing plenary meeting, on 28 March 2002, the Board authorized the Rapporteur to prepare and finalize the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the meeting:

Argentina
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
China
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Latvia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Senegal
Singapore
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/INF.3.

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the meeting:

Botswana
Djibouti

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Arab Labour Organization
European Community
International Textiles and Clothing Bureau
Organization of African Unity

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the meeting:

International Monetary Fund
Universal Postal Union
United Nations Development Organization

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Trade Center UNCTAD/WTO were represented at the meeting.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

General Category

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Special Category

International Multimodal Transport Association